

Retrofit Accelerator - Workplaces

Summer 2021 - Newsletter

Getting ready for PSDS III

The Government's [Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme](#) (PSDS) awarded nearly £1bn of grants to public bodies over the past six months to pay for their decarbonisation projects. £159m were awarded to London-based organisations, 83% of which was secured by organisations supported by the [Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces](#) programme.

We are expecting a third phase of PSDS funding to be announced in the coming months, given the Government's commitments to net zero and public sector decarbonisation. Based on the first two phases of PSDS, the application window for any potential future rounds is likely to be short so getting your prospective projects scoped and ready is a big step towards success.

The Retrofit Accelerator team is ready to help you turn your carbon reduction ambitions into deliverable projects and ready to apply for any future funding. Follow the link below to find out more about the support the team can offer you and how to get in touch.

Contact the team at RetrofitAccelerator@london.gov.uk or call 07900 365 065.

[Read more about the programme](#)

City of London kickstarts first PSDS projects

With support from the Retrofit Accelerator team, the City of London ran a

successful mini-competition under the RE:FIT Framework and has appointed Vital Energi to deliver a range of retrofit projects (subject to works contract), starting with the delivery of their £9.4m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme project.

This will fund energy efficiency measures at four sites: The Guildhall, Barbican Arts Centre, Guildhall School of Music and Drama; and London Metropolitan Archives.

These measures include switching to energy efficient LED lighting; improving heating insulation; replacing building management system controllers and sensors; upgrading ventilation fans and motors to make them more efficient; installing air conditioning systems and controls; and improving energy metering and building controls.

[Find out how the team can support your projects](#)

Retrofitting hundreds of London's schools

This month marks a major milestone for the Retrofit Accelerator programme having supported over 250 London schools since 2010 to scope and deliver retrofit projects.

Working in partnership with a range of organisations, including Southwark Diocese, Harris Federation and the London Borough of Hounslow, the Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces team has offered the support and advice needed to get the hundreds of projects kickstarted.

With thousands of schools across London, reducing the carbon footprint of the city's educational establishments is a key part of meeting the Mayor's net zero target.

The recent PSDS funding round was a welcome boost to many schools, helping more London public sector organisations transform their aging, energy inefficient buildings, into well lit, and better controlled buildings, enhancing the students' experience.

[Read more of our success stories](#)

Give us your views on retrofit funding

The funding and finance landscape for retrofit projects is regularly changing – the latest example being the closing of the [Salix Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme](#) in England.

On 1 April 2021 provision of the scheme ended for England, leaving PSDS the sole funding opportunity for energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects in the public sector. But there is currently no live PSDS phase and the criteria under previous phases were different to those eligible for the Salix Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme.

We would like to better understand the impact of the removal of the loan scheme so that we can provide feedback to BEIS and other funding partners.

We would welcome it if you could spare a few minutes to answer our very short survey.

[Complete the short finance survey.](#)

Tell us how we're doing

We always aim to provide an excellent service to our users and improve where there may be gaps in the support we offer.

Whether you are a current, past or aspirational participant in the programme, we're keen to hear your views. We want to understand what we do well, what some of the barriers are that you face and where can we improve our services.

Your feedback will help us deliver more effective support.

[Complete the short survey.](#)

Webinar: retrofitting London's colleges and universities

In partnership with **The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education**

(EAUC), we hosted a webinar exploring the role retrofit can play in transforming London's college and university buildings.

The one-hour event was targeted at sustainability staff, energy managers, estates teams, and finance and procurement specialists. It looked at how the Retrofit Accelerators can help kickstart projects and the support on offer.

The webinar is available to watch back on EAUC's website.

[Watch the full webinar recording](#)

Webinar: decarbonising healthcare in London

Our next webinar will be looking at how the Retrofit Accelerators can support the decarbonisation of London's hospitals and healthcare buildings.

The virtual event, hosted in collaboration with **NHS England and NHS Improvement**, will feature success stories from across London and more details of the fully-funded support on offer.

Taking place online at 11am, Friday 16 July 2021, the webinar will be open exclusively to NHS staff.

To request an invite, email Ian Stenton, National Sustainability Programme Manager, at ian.stenton@nhs.net

[Request an invitation](#)

Supporting social housing retrofit

The Mayor of London earlier this month unveiled the £3.5m Social Housing Retrofit Accelerator to help assist social housing providers gain access to funding for major retrofit projects.

The new Accelerator, being delivered by the GLA and Turner & Townsend on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), will build on the Mayor's successful [Retrofit Accelerator – Homes](#) which aims to transform the way London retrofits its ageing and energy-inefficient housing

to create warm, affordable and ultra-low carbon homes. It will also directly help social housing providers develop plans to improve their chances of being successful through the next round of the £160m [Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund](#).

Social housing providers across England will be able to access free support from summer 2021.

[Find out more](#)

Get in touch

The Retrofit Accelerator – Workplaces team is ready to support public bodies with fully funded start-to-finish consultancy and guaranteed carbon savings. If you would like more information, please contact us:

Email: RetrofitAccelerator@london.gov.uk

Tel: 07900 365 065

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